

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 8, 2003 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1-19 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 15, 17, and 19 have been amended, claim 20 has been newly added, while no claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-20 are pending in the application and presented for reconsideration.

Applicant sincerely thanks the examiner for indicating that claims 1-19 contain allowable subject matter. Please note that some of the amendments to claim 1 and all of the amendments to claims 3, 5, 15, 17, and 19 have been made to improve their readability and not to change their scope in any way.

This amendment changes and adds claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In the Office Action, claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to address the issue noted in the Office Action. Therefore, claim 1 is now believed to be in definite form and meet the requirements of § 112, second paragraph. Also claim 1 has been amended to change an element written in "means-plus-function" language to non-means-plus-function language.

Since there are no other rejections outstanding, the pending claims 1-19 are now in condition for allowance in accordance with the indication in the Office Action. Claim 20 is a method claim that is also believed to be allowable for reasons that are similar to the indicated allowability of claim 1. Claim 20 is well supported, for example, by the flow charts in Figs 2-3 and 5-6 and the corresponding text in the specification.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance. An indication of the same is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding the application, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date February 6, 2004

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